

Department of Veterans Affairs

§ 3.852

for the use of the beneficiary, regardless of legal disability, when it is determined to be in the best interest of the beneficiary by the Veterans Services Officer.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 5502)

(1) Unless otherwise contraindicated by evidence of record payment will be made direct to the following classes of minors without any referral to the Veterans Services Officer:

(i) Those who are serving in or have been discharged from the military forces of the United States; and

(ii) Those who qualify for survivors benefits as a surviving spouse.

(2) Unless otherwise contraindicated by evidence of record, immediate payment of benefits may be made to the spouse of an incompetent veteran having no guardian for the use of the veteran and his or her dependents prior to referral to the Veterans Services Officer. (Sec. 13.57 of this chapter.)

(b) When payments have been discontinued or withheld from a fiduciary, benefits may be temporarily paid to the person having custody of the minor or incompetent.

(c) Where a child is in the custody of a natural, adoptive or stepparent, benefits payable on behalf of such child may be paid to the parent as custodian of the child.

(d) Benefits due a minor or incompetent adult Indian who is a recognized ward of the Government, for whom no fiduciary has been appointed, may be paid to the proper officer of the Indian Service designated by the Secretary of the Interior to receive funds for said person.

[26 FR 1606, Feb. 24, 1961, as amended at 27 FR 5431, June 8, 1962; 38 FR 29076, Oct. 19, 1973; 39 FR 34532, Sept. 26, 1974; 40 FR 36329, Aug. 20, 1975; 41 FR 12656, Mar. 26, 1976; 45 FR 27436, Apr. 23, 1980]

§ 3.851 St. Elizabeths Hospital, Washington, DC.

Benefits due or becoming due any person who is a patient at St. Elizabeths Hospital will be paid to a duly appointed fiduciary of such person. The benefits payable to a veteran who has no spouse, child, or dependent parent will be paid by an institutional award in accordance with § 3.852 if there is no

such fiduciary. Benefits payable to veterans' dependents who are patients at this hospital will be paid direct or to a fiduciary of such dependent, except that any awards now being paid to the superintendent will be continued while such dependent remains a patient.

[39 FR 34532, Sept. 26, 1974, as amended at 45 FR 27436, Apr. 23, 1980]

§ 3.852 Institutional awards.

(a) When an incompetent veteran entitled to pension, compensation or retirement pay is a patient in a hospital or other institution, payments on his (or her) account may be made to the chief officer of a Department of Veterans Affairs or non-Department of Veterans Affairs institution:

(1) When no fiduciary has been appointed or when payments to an unsatisfactory fiduciary have been discontinued;

(2) When the Veterans Services Officer certifies that a fiduciary is not furnishing the chief officer funds required for the veteran's comforts and desires not otherwise provided by the institution;

(3) When a fiduciary requests that an institutional award be made or continued, and the Veterans Services Officer approves the request.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 5503(b)(3))

(b) In an institutional award of pension, compensation or retirement pay there may be paid to the chief officer of a non-Department of Veterans Affairs institution on behalf of the veteran an amount not in excess of \$60 per month. An institutional award of disability pension will not exceed \$25 per month if the award is apportionable under § 3.454(a).

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 501)

(1) All sums, otherwise payable in excess of the institutional award, apportionments or awards to fiduciaries, will be deposited in Personal Funds of Patients.

(2) There may be paid on behalf of a veteran, having no spouse, child or dependent parent and receiving care in a non-Department of Veterans Affairs institution, such additional amount, within the limit of the total payable

and as may be certified by the Veterans Services Officer, needed for the benefit of the veteran and to pay for his (or her) care and maintenance. Moneys on deposit in Personal Funds of Patients will not be used for this purpose except as authorized by the Veterans Services Officer under § 13.72 of this chapter.

(3) If the veteran has dependents, or more is payable under his (or her) rating, or there are funds to his (or her) credit in "Funds Due Incompetent Beneficiaries," such additional amount as may be needed will be allowed on the basis of a certification by the chief officer with respect to need and amount required.

(c) Where there arises a situation as enumerated in paragraph (a)(1) of this section, apportionment to dependents will be under § 3.451.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 5307)

(d) There will be paid to the chief officer of a Department of Veterans Affairs institution all sums otherwise payable in excess of apportionments or awards to fiduciaries.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 5503(b)(3))

(e) Any excess funds held by the chief officer of a non-Department of Veterans Affairs institution, not necessary for the benefit of the veteran, will be returned to the Department of Veterans Affairs or to a fiduciary, if one is serving. Upon death of a veteran with no surviving heirs, excess funds will be returned to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 5502)

[26 FR 1606, Feb. 24, 1961, as amended at 27 FR 5431, June 8, 1962; 38 FR 29076, Oct. 19, 1973; 39 FR 12100, Apr. 3, 1974; 40 FR 36329, Aug. 20, 1975; 45 FR 27436, Apr. 23, 1980]

CROSS REFERENCES: Veterans Benefits Apportionable. See § 3.452. Payment to Chief Officer of Institution. See § 13.61 of this chapter.

§ 3.853 Incompetents; estate over \$25,000.

(a) Effective November 1, 1990, through September 30, 1992, where a veteran:

- (1) Is rated incompetent by VA, and
- (2) Has neither spouse, child, nor dependent parent, and

(3) Has an estate, excluding the value of the veteran's home, which exceeds \$25,000, further payments of compensation shall not be made until the estate is reduced to less than \$10,000. The value of the veteran's estate shall be computed under the provisions of § 13.109 of this chapter. Payment of compensation shall be discontinued the last day of the first month in which the veteran's estate exceeds \$25,000.

(b) Where payment of compensation has been discontinued by reason of paragraph (a) of this section, it shall not be resumed for any period prior to October 1, 1992, until VA has received evidence showing the estate has been reduced to less than \$10,000, or any criterion of paragraph (a) (1) or (2) of this section is no longer met. Payments shall not be made for any period prior to the date on which the estate was reduced to less than \$10,000, or a criterion of paragraph (a) (1) or (2) of this section was no longer met.

(c) If a veteran denied payment of compensation under paragraph (a) of this section is subsequently rated competent for more than 90 days, the withheld compensation shall be paid to the veteran in a lump-sum. However, a lump-sum payment shall not be made to or on behalf of a veteran who, within such 90-day period, dies or is again rated incompetent.

(d) The compensation payments to an incompetent veteran who is hospitalized, institutionalized, or domiciled by the United States, or any political subdivision thereof, are subject to the provisions of § 3.557 of this part.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 5505)

[56 FR 65853, Dec. 19, 1991]

§ 3.854 Limitation on payments for minor.

Benefits will not be authorized to a fiduciary recognized or appointed for a child, by reason of its minority, for any period subsequent to the day preceding the date on which the child will attain its majority under the law of the State in which the child resides. Payments on or after that date, if otherwise in order, will be made direct to the child, if competent, or, if incompetent and direct payment under § 3.850 is not in